

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

1-54. (Canceled)

55. (New) A medical device comprising:

a core element including a first portion extending substantially longitudinally and a second portion including at least one loop and a helical coil tapering from a larger diameter at a proximal end thereof to a smaller diameter at a distal end thereof, wherein the at least one loop is located at a distance from the proximal end of the helical coil that is substantially greater than a distance between wound sections of the helical coil.

56. (New) The medical device of claim 55 wherein the core element comprises a shape-memory material.

57. (New) The medical device of claim 55 further comprising a flat wire substantially wrapping the first and second portions of the core element.

58. (New) The medical device of claim 57 wherein a distal end of the flat wire is attached to the distal end of the helical coil.

59. (New) The medical device of claim 57 wherein the flat wire comprises a square cross-section.

60. (New) The medical device of claim 57 wherein a layer of a polymeric material substantially covers an outer surface of the flat wire.

61. (New) The medical device of claim 57 wherein a layer of a polymeric material substantially covers a portion of the flat wire wrapping the helical coil.

62. (New) The medical device of claim 55 wherein the helical coil is adapted to ensnare objects in an anatomical lumen.

63. (New) The medical device of claim 55 wherein the helical coil and the at least one loop substantially deform upon being subjected to a force along a longitudinal axis of the core element.

64. (New) The medical device of claim 63 wherein the helical coil and the at least one loop substantially reform upon cessation of the force exerted along the longitudinal axis of the core element.

65. (New) The medical device of claim 55 wherein the helical coil and the at

least one loop are reversibly transformed into a substantially linear configuration.

66. (New) The medical device of claim 55 further comprising a catheter adapted to receive the core element.

67. (New) The medical device of claim 55 wherein the helical coil assumes a substantially linear configuration when positioned within the catheter and expands back into a tapered configuration upon removal from the catheter.

68. (New) The medical device of claim 55 further comprising a sheath substantially covering the second portion of the core element.

69. (New) The medical device of claim 68 wherein the sheath is heat-shrunked about the second portion of the core element.

70. (New) The medical device of claim 68 wherein the sheath comprises a polymeric material.

71. (New) The medical device of claim 68 wherein the sheath comprises a heat shrink extrusion with a plurality of colors along a length thereof.

72. (New) The medical device of claim 71 wherein the heat shrink extrusion and the plurality of colors along the length thereof are resistant to laser energy.

73. (New) The medical device of claim 55 further comprising:

A flat wire substantially wrapping the first portion of the core element; and
a polymer sheath coupled to a distal end of the flat wire and adapted to substantially cover the second portion of the core element.

74. (New) A medical device comprising:

a core element including a first portion extending substantially longitudinally and a second portion including at least one loop and a helical coil, the helical coil tapering from a larger diameter at a proximal end thereof to a smaller diameter at a distal end thereof, wherein a wound section of the at least one loop is disposed substantially perpendicular to a wound section of the helical coil.

REMARKS

The application has been amended to insert the required reference to the parent application, for which benefit is claimed, of this new continuing application. Original claims 1-54 are canceled and new claims 55-74 are hereby presented for examination.

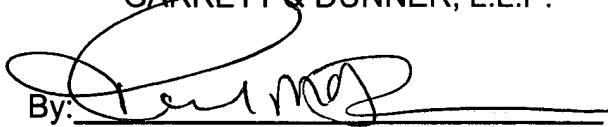
New claims 55-74 are similar to claims 29-46, 48, and 60 cancelled during prosecution of the parent application.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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